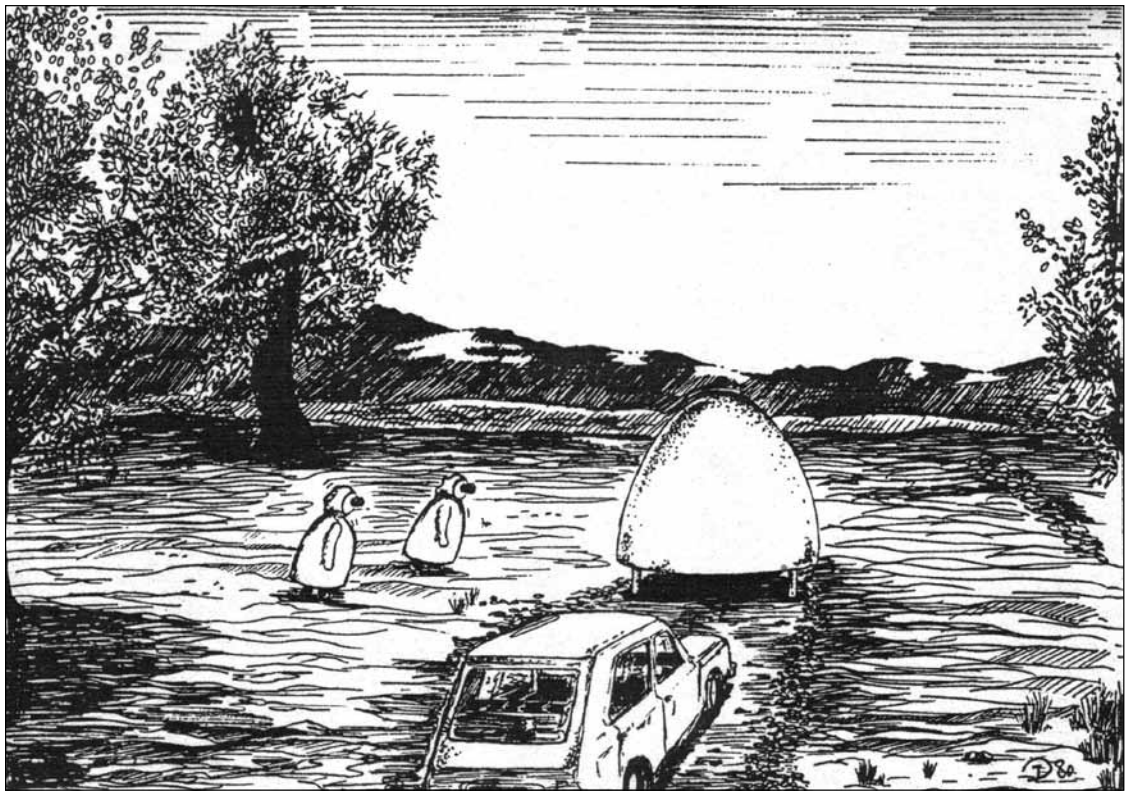
IUR
International UFO Reporter
Volume 33, Number 1



Above: Artist's reconstruction of the event. © Ignacio Bernácer, AVIU. Courtesy of Juan Antonio Fernández Peris. Below: Federico Ibáñez Ibáñez in his car looks at the tree from behind which the two humanoids came. 1979 photo by José Vicente Alós.

The 1979 landing at Turís, Spain

International UFO Reporter

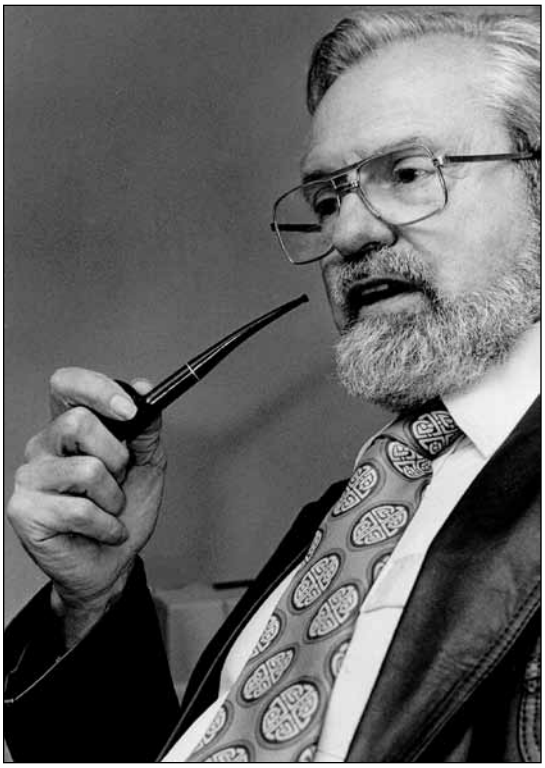
Editors:
Jerome Clark
George M. Eberhart
Mark Rodeghier

Contributing Editors:
Bill Chalker
Richard F. Haines
Kevin D. Randle
Jenny Randles
Chris Rutkowski

Web site:
www.cufos.org

E-mail:
Infocenter@cufos.org

Phone:
(773) 271-3611



J. Allen Hynek
1910-1986

Imagination or reality? The landing at Turís *by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos* **3**

Intelligent motions *by Michael D. Swords* **8**

Book reviews *by Bill Murphy, Richard Thieme, and Kevin D. Randle* **16**

Letters **24**

Published in March 2010.

International UFO Reporter (ISSN 0720-174X) is published quarterly by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 31335, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited. Copyright © 2010 by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Third-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

Advertisements accepted for publication in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Address all article submissions, letters to the editor, and other editorial correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 31335, Chicago, Illinois 60631. Address all subscription correspondence to *International UFO Reporter*, P.O. Box 31335, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

The *International UFO Reporter* is a benefit publication mailed to Associates of the Center for a contribution of $25.00 or more. Foreign Associates add $5.00 for delivery. All amounts in U.S. funds. Other publications also available for contributors of larger amounts. For details, write to the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 31335, Chicago, Illinois 60631, USA.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to CUFOS, P.O. Box 31335, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

Imagination or reality? The landing at Turís

Revisiting a 1979 Spanish CE3

by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

Editor's Note: This is a translation by Richard Heiden of an article that appeared in the Spanish magazine Más Allá, *no. 242 (April 2009): 42–48, found online at www.masalladelaciencia.es/el-ovni-de-turis_id30895/episodio-ovni-en-turis_id1242088.*

At 11:30 on the morning of St. James's Day, July 25, 1979, Federico Ibáñez Ibáñez, a successful 54-year-old farmer, left the village of Turís, a small town in the Spanish province of Valencia, to head toward his vineyards about four kilometers distant, for the purpose of gathering grapes for the family meal. Driving his Renault 6 some 700 meters (0.4 miles) before arriving, he saw a reflection that he thought was from the SEAT 600 car belonging to the son of the owner of an adjoining plot of land. Soon he could not see it any more because of bends in the road. Nevertheless, about three minutes later when he was about 50 meters (165 feet) away, he saw it again and still thought it was a car parked in the middle of the access road to the fields.

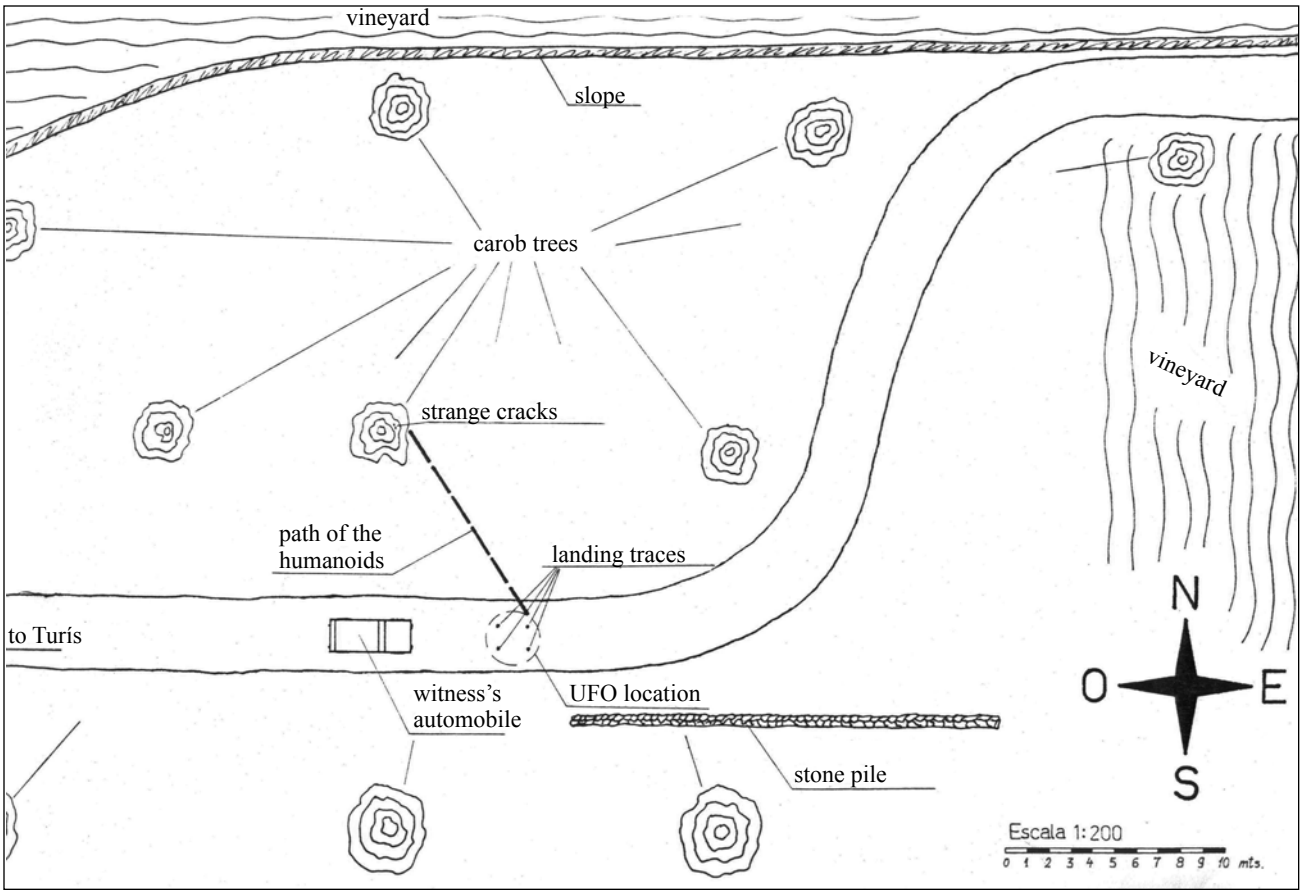
It was only when he was about four meters (13 feet) from the object, which was blocking his way, that he could see that it was not an automobile. It had a "half-egg" shape, lacked wheels, and was resting on the ground on two "feet." It was white in color, flat on the bottom, and approximately 2.5 meters (8 feet) tall, including the 30 centimeters (12 inches) of the feet, and 2.5 meters wide. "It was something metallic and very bright, a very strong white that I had never seen," Ibáñez affirmed.

Witness Federico Ibáñez Ibáñez, in the area of the event. Photo by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, 1979.

Stunned and still sitting inside his vehicle, he saw two identical beings run from behind a carob tree 11 meters (36 feet) to his left. They were between 80 and 100 centimeters (2 feet 7 inches–3 feet 4 inches) tall and running quickly one behind the other, almost touching. They did not turn to face the observer, who saw them only in profile for a couple seconds. They entered the object on its left side.

Nevertheless, thanks to his sharp eyesight, Ibáñez could see that they were wearing a white outfit that seemed to be "puffed up with air" (about half as wide as they were tall), beginning at their foreheads and almost reaching the ground, leaving their small dark feet uncovered. Their arms were short, folded tightly against their bodies and ending in dark hands. The only details that he could see on their faces were some protruding black tubes, about 7–8 centimeters (about

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos (born December 1948 in Valencia, Spain) has had a 30-year professional career in finance (labor economics, risk management, and pensions) as a department manager for the Ford Motor Company. In ufology, he has published seven books; his prolific bibliography can be found at www.anomalia.org/bibliog1.pdf. He has specialized in data collection and analysis of landing reports. He was instrumental in the 1992 declassification of the Spanish Air Force UFO files. Currently, he is managing FOTOCAT, the largest worldwide catalogue of UFO photographs (10,000 entries).



Map of the sighting location. © Luis de Manuel, AVIU. Courtesy of Juan Antonio Fernández Peris.

3 inches) long. Like "glasses that are used for welding, but longer," was the analogy that he put forward.

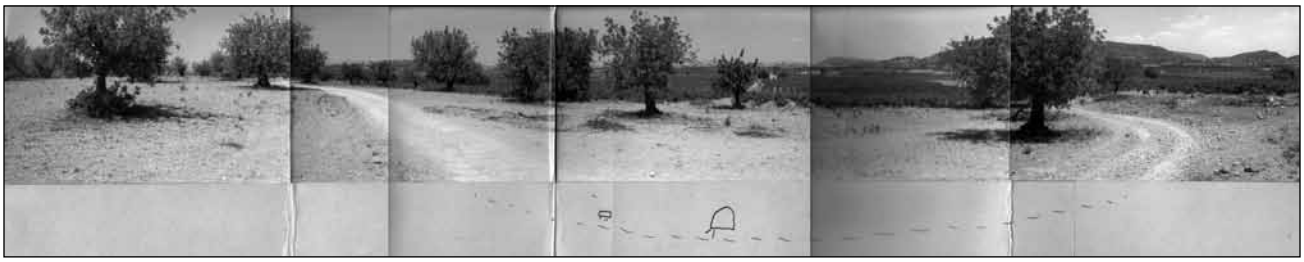
Suddenly, the object ascended at great speed, not quite vertically but slightly inclined toward the witness's left, and then it headed almost directly west (at an azimuth of 260º–265º). It stirred up a whirlwind that swept the ground clean, but even so, Ibáñez had time to make out through his windshield a smooth, circular base that was the same bright white color as the rest of the object. He no longer saw the feet of the object. He quickly got out of the car, but could only discern a "pearl" in the sky that disappeared in the heights. Perhaps because he had no time to cut the ignition and the window on the driver's side was down, he did not hear any sound from the object. In all, from the time when he saw that it was strange until it began its takeoff, about six seconds elapsed; and then, four more until it was out of sight.

With presence of mind, Ibáñez drove on to his vineyard and picked the grapes, but he felt uneasy and decided to leave. First he looked over at the area next to the carob tree "in case something had been left." Back home, he nervously described what had happened to the family members who had gathered there to celebrate the meal of the holy day. Later he returned to the site with his wife, his daughter, his son-in-law, and a foreman. The place where the object had landed was now occupied by the car of the owner of the adjacent vineyard, to whom they unfortunately did not say anything. They did, however, verify that the area near the road was clear of dust due to the effect of the object's takeoff. Next to the carob tree behind which the two beings had emerged, they found two holes that the witness thought were probably not dug by rabbits.

Field investigation

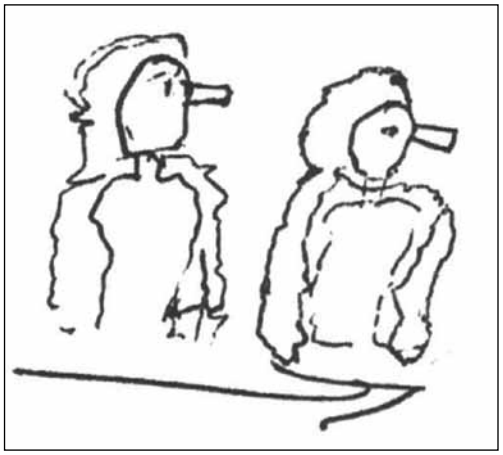
After word of the event reached town, the local reporter wrote a story for the Valencia daily newspaper *Las Provincias* that was published August 10. Two days later, seven university students, members of the Valencia-based UFO group AVIU headed by Juan Antonio Fernández Peris (who in 2000 would achieve fame as the author of the most detailed study of the so-called Manises incident, which took place on November 11, 1979), visited the site. They returned on August 14 and remained for 30 straight hours. On both occasions, they interviewed Ibáñez in depth and made numerous measurements and estimates of size, distance, duration, and other calculations, following the protocols and techniques of the most advanced UFO investigation manuals of the time.

Days after the event, Ibáñez marked with a stick the exact spot where he thought the object was on the ground. In their first investigation, the AVIU investigators highlighted the length of that circumference with chalk, to estimate its dimensions and area. By chance they found within that circle four tracks in a perfect rectangle, 176 by 130 centimeters (5 feet 10 inches by 4 feet 4 inches). Two of them had dete-

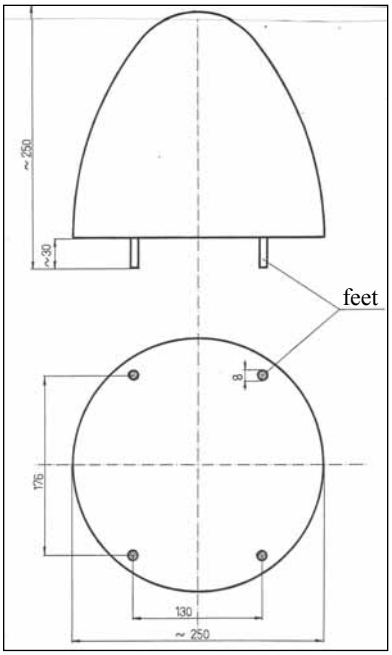


Panoramic view of the area and curve where Ibáñez's car stopped just meters from the UFO, with the drawing added in the lower margin, made by the witness for V. J. Ballester Olmos and M. Guasp. Photo by José Vicente Alós, AVIU, 1979.

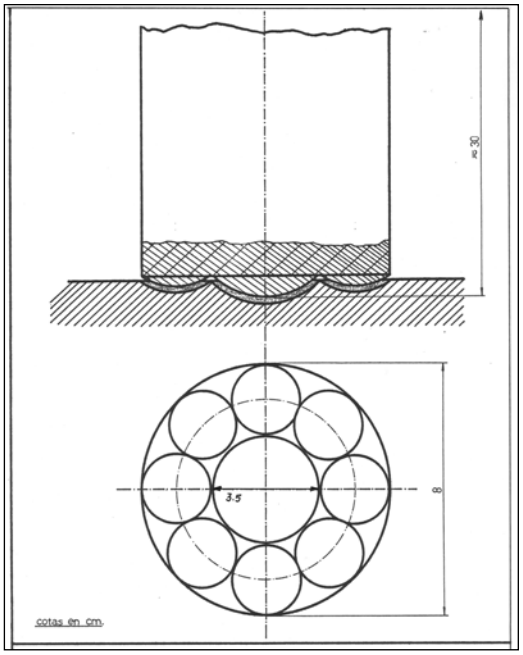
From inside his car, Ibáñez points to the place where he observed the landed UFO. Photo by José Vicente Alós, AVIU, 1979.



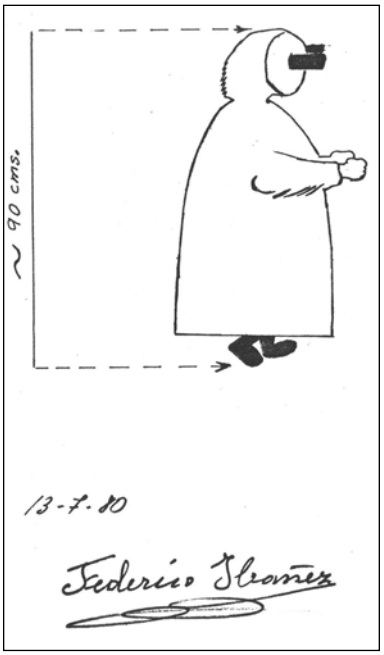
Drawing of the supposed UFO occupants, made by Ibáñez in August 1979 (first investigation, by AVIU). Courtesy of Juan Antonio Fernández Peris.



Elevation and cross-section diagrams of the Turís object. Dimensions in centimeters.

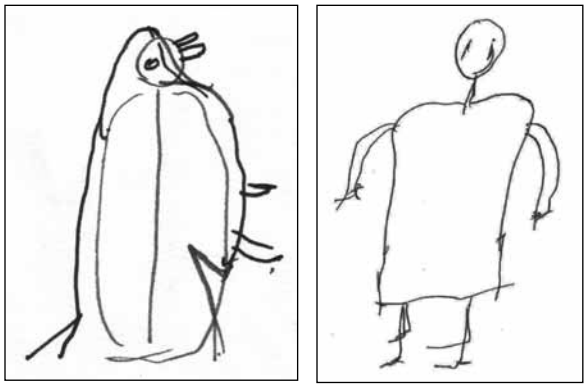


View of one of the hypothetical feet on which the UFO rested, based on the shape of the traces. © Luis de Manuel, AVIU.



Appearance of the beings, approved by Ibáñez. © J. M. Gascón Valldecabres, AVIU.

Investigators Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Miguel Guasp, in the area of the road where the UFO landed, record Federico Ibáñez's explanations in September 1979. Photo by José Vicente Alós, AVIU.



Drawings of one of the supposed UFO occupants, made by Ibáñez. On the left, in September 1979 (Ballester-Guasp investigation). On the right, September 2008.

riorated, but the team took exact measurements and made plaster casts of the other two. Each one had a shape of a circle 8 centimeters (3 inches) in diameter, formed of eight spherical holes 2.25 centimeters (0.9 inches) in diameter, which in turn symmetrically surrounded a central spherical hole about 3.5 centimeters (1.4 inches) in diameter. The depth of the marks of the two kinds of holes varied—the central one was sunk into the ground 9–14 millimeters (a half-inch or less), while the depth of the smaller ones was very slight. Using a manual penetrometer, they estimated—probably with a rather large margin of error—that the object capable of producing those marks in the road had exerted a force of about four metric tons. On the other hand, they verified that none of the agricultural vehicles or equipment used in the area seemed capable of generating that kind of trace.

This model field study was followed up on September 30 by an investigation by myself and my Valencia coworker, physicist Miguel Guasp. We carried out an intense study of the sighting, the observer, and the site over the course of several hours. A comprehensive report on the investigation was published in our book *Los OVNIs y la ciencia* (Barcelona: Plaza y Janés, 1981), pp. 95–107.

On July 13, 1980, the AVIU group returned to the spot for additional checking and to allow professional artist Juan Marcos Gascón to create a picture of the beings, which the witness approved. Two detailed summaries of the case were written. The first was by Juan Antonio Fernández Peris, Luis de Manuel, and Roberto de Jorge, for the September 1981 issue of the UFO magazine *Stendek*, which was translated by Gordon Creighton for the November–December 1982 issue of *Flying Saucer Review*; and the second by Ballester Olmos and Fernández Peris in our book *Enciclopedia de los encuentros cercanos con OVNIs*, published in 1984.

The field investigations concluded that Federico Ibáñez had never shown any interest in reports of flying saucers, to the extent that in 1979 he was unaware of the meaning of the acronym OVNI (the Spanish equivalent of UFO). A rural man with good vision and reflexes, open and affable, he made the best of impressions on us. We agreed that he was not a person given to fantasies, nor capable of inventing—and much less faking—an event like the one he had related. He was (and is) a very simple person, with hardly any education. It should be pointed out that when the witness arrived home from the sighting he was so disturbed that his family thought he had witnessed a serious accident: "Even worse," he told them. And he recounted to them his strange experience.

The case revisited 30 years later

Good practice in UFO field investigation recommends revisiting a case many years later. This led me to interview the witness again, first in September 2008 with Luis R. González, author of *Las Abducciones: ¡Vaya Timo!* (Pamplona: Editorial Laetoli S. L., 2008), the best book in Spanish on the abduction phenomenon; and in November 2008 with experienced photographer Rafael Márquez.

We returned to the wine-growing village of Turís to speak again with Federico Ibáñez and to find out first-hand what his impressions were 30 years later. We wondered whether he had had other peculiar sightings or experiences. Would he retract what he had said? Could we catch him in a lie?

Our investigative experience during all these years gave us confidence. Our dialogue with him, though friendly and up close, was frank and direct with no leniency or diplomacy, as we wanted to explore all the standard misidentifications that might explain the event. Unless Ibáñez was the best actor in the world, we concluded that a joke or an invention on his part was unlikely. He spoke with absolute self-confidence and reiterated everything energetically. We asked him directly if it had been a setup, and he denied it, even though the opportunity was given to him to confess without detriment to his reputation. Perhaps an extra drink of alcohol had made him see something that wasn't there? "I have never drunk,

Unconscious inspiration for the appearance of the occupants? Fictional beings from the 1977 film Star Wars*: Left: The Jawas, one-meter-tall humanoids from the planet Tatooine. Right: The Sand People (or Tusken Raiders), creatures with long eye devices.*

not even wine," he affirmed emphatically, despite having spent his whole life among the grapevines.

At almost 84 years of age, Ibáñez has a bad back and he walks with a stoop, but he demonstrated a manifest vitality; in fact, he still helps his sons gather fruit, and he has worked in the field since the age of nine. Medical history that might provide a clue is nonexistent, apart from his back that has given him severe pain for more than 70 years. We verified that he is not an eccentric and that he has never claimed special abilities. Nor has he changed his life since then. He seems to be a normal person, with a life centered on his family and working his land. A rather Spartan person, I would say.

Was it a dream, a hallucination, something unreal? He denied it all. Ibáñez spoke confidently, and he was convinced of what took place in front of his own eyes. And he was convincing. Evidently he has repeated the same story over many years, without major changes. At no time during our conversation did he allude to space, extraterrestrials, or anything like that. He called the object simply "the contraption." What we might call the two humanoid beings, Ibáñez referred to as "dwarves" or "little lads" because of their short stature, which he estimated at 40–50 centimeters tall (1 foot 4 inches–1 foot 7 inches), whereas in 1979 he had estimated their height at 80–100 centimeters and on-site checking had indicated 98 centimeters (3 feet 2 inches). Was he thinking of their thickness more than their height? Nor did he forget to mention a detail that seems irrational, despite his emphasizing it: "They got into the craft without opening or closing a door."

I insisted that he make drawings of both the object and the beings, to compare with those he had made 30 years before. He still showed a limited ability to draw, scribbling the best he could. Compared with the 1979 originals, the new sketches showed discrepancies and a loss of precision and detail. He began drawing the circular base of the object, and then he added the upper curved portion. The outline of the beings became more stylized and he showed them face on instead of in profile, nearly lacking the dynamic movement that his original drawings indicated. At what point do the differences become significant? The later drawings are more schematic than the old ones: Is that because of his age and the amount of time that has passed? If it is, we appreciate that his emotion had not diminished when he remembered his sighting of so long ago.

His wife is now blind and spent some time greeting us during our visit. We took advantage of the opportunity to ask her opinion about the events, without shying away from the possibility of a joke or deceit: "I believe it," she declared without hesitation, "[My husband] says too many truthful things, and he is [usually] too clear." It was quite obvious to us that she considers her husband a truthful and sincere man.

Our two visits in 2008 tended to corroborate the serious character of Ibáñez, who in no way tried to embellish his story or profit from it in any way. He is typical of those who live in a rural environment, lacking duplicity, with a path in life interrupted only once by the unknown. He has always lived in healthy financial circumstances and would have more to lose than to gain by inventing things. If he does not seem prone to spin stories, if what he categorically claims he saw does not correlate with anything we can identify, and if, in addition, the traces are there as complementary material evidence—then what really happened?

Weak points?

Obviously, Federico Ibáñez was the only witness to the events, and no one else can vouch for his story. This is the primary difficulty with the more unusual UFO cases. Some colleagues have pointed out aspects that, according to them, put in question Ibáñez's testimony and point to a fabrication. Ufologist Mario A. Morales of Majorca finds it suspicious that even at only 50 meters away, Ibáñez thought he was seeing a car in front of him. But this is an understandable presumption: After initially thinking that it was the car of his neighbor's son, he expected to see it later, which prolonged his confusion in the scant seconds that he drove those 50 meters. In no way did he suspect he would encounter a strange craft. His assumption that things were normal was stronger than any inkling he might have had that something was out of the ordinary. On the other hand, if he had headed straight toward the supposed SEAT 600 and immediately deduced that there was a landed flying saucer in front of him, we would have good reason to doubt his account.

Skeptical author Luis R. González of Málaga criticizes this case based on the description of the beings, which

(continued on page 22)

INTELLIGENT MOTIONS

BY MICHAEL D. SWORDS

In late 1951 and into 1952, there was a sea change in the Pentagon. When Gen. William M. Garland became chief assistant to the new Director of Air Force Intelligence, Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, the barriers to sympathetic consideration of UFO reality cleared away. Previously, there had been three consistently negative individuals there: Brig. Gen. Ernest (Mickey) Moore, one of Lieut. Gen. Charles P. Cabell's main assistants; Col. Edward Porter, the most derisive figure in the analysis staff; and Maj. Aaron (Jerry) Boggs, who manned the UFO analysis desk.

When Samford and Garland came in, Moore was gone and so was Boggs. Porter was more or less kicked upstairs as some sort of liaison to the Joint Chiefs, and though still present, was not so much an active blocker of UFO work. Instead, the colonel just below him in the intelligence stack, William A. Adams, brought an extremely positive voice to the issue. Most important for our story, Boggs's position, briefly held by a stationkeeper, had now been given to Maj. Dewey Fournet.

Capt. Edward Ruppelt said that Fournet and his boss (Adams) were two of the most convinced voices anywhere in Air Force Intelligence that the UFOs were extraterrestrial technology. For once there was some freedom to creatively probe into this mystery. But what to do? The Air Force would not spend money on the problem. Even operating in-place systems would or could not be dedicated in any significant way to the task. But Fournet found a different means.

Dewey Fournet was an intelligent man, a pilot, and an engineer. When he looked at the UFO reports that came across his desk, he was astonished not only by what they were telling him but also by the close-minded resistance that many Pentagon officers had to even the thought that they might be extraterrestrial technology. He found it frustrating that anyone could be even mildly familiar with these reports and still not have the ETH on the table. He undertook his legendary Top Secret study not to prove the ETH, but to break down what he felt were foolish and potentially unhelpful mental blocks to something that could turn out to be the solution to these incidents.

Fournet was almost always conservative in discussing his beliefs and his role once he left the service. But we have several enlightening comments by Ed Ruppelt about him. We can probably trust those remarks, as Fournet was aware of them, and many times referred to Ruppelt as a good colleague and an honest man. Let's listen to Ruppelt talking about him:

> Dewey Fournet was our liaison officer in the Pentagon. He was probably the most thoroughly convinced believer that UFOs were interplanetary spaceships that I knew. We used to argue for hours every time I went to Washington. He was the ringleader of the group in the Directorate of Intelligence that believed. His "Top Secret" study created a lot of excitement by concluding that UFOs were spaceships. He was thoroughly hacked about the decision of the [Robertson] panel, and he was the unidentified source of a lot of Keyhoe's information. . . . Dewey's word swung a lot of weight in the D/I.
>
> He had access to all of our reports, read them all over very carefully, and was still absolutely convinced. He and I used to argue by the hour and I must say that he had some good arguments. Everything that he believed was based on the "face value" of the reports. If a person said that they saw something and had a good description of it, Dewey took this as the last word. We disagreed when I didn't buy the reports lock, stock, and barrel. . . . No matter how much I talked, however, I never convinced Fournet that I had a point.
>
> In about December of 1952, Dewey made a study of UFOs. It was good except for this basic premise. [Ruppelt is here alluding to Fournet accepting witness testimony in ways that were, to him, too simplistic.] He and I hashed it around a lot. He gave it to a lot of people who believed it because Dewey had a good reputation.... His famous study threw the D/I in a tizzy.

This study was undertaken by Fournet in the fall of 1952 and written in an almost polished report in December, shortly before he left the service. He later said that he knew that it was completed and classified Top Secret, but he himself never saw the final copy. He took several of the cases that he used in this study and went with them to make a presentation to the famous Robertson Panel, hoping to loosen up thinking about the ETH. There the mystery of the study resided, a

Michael D. Swords is professor emeritus of the Environmental Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo.

Dewey Fournet (left) and Ed Ruppelt

"hopeless task" of retrieval for UFO historians, just like its legendary cousin, the 1948 Estimate of the Situation.

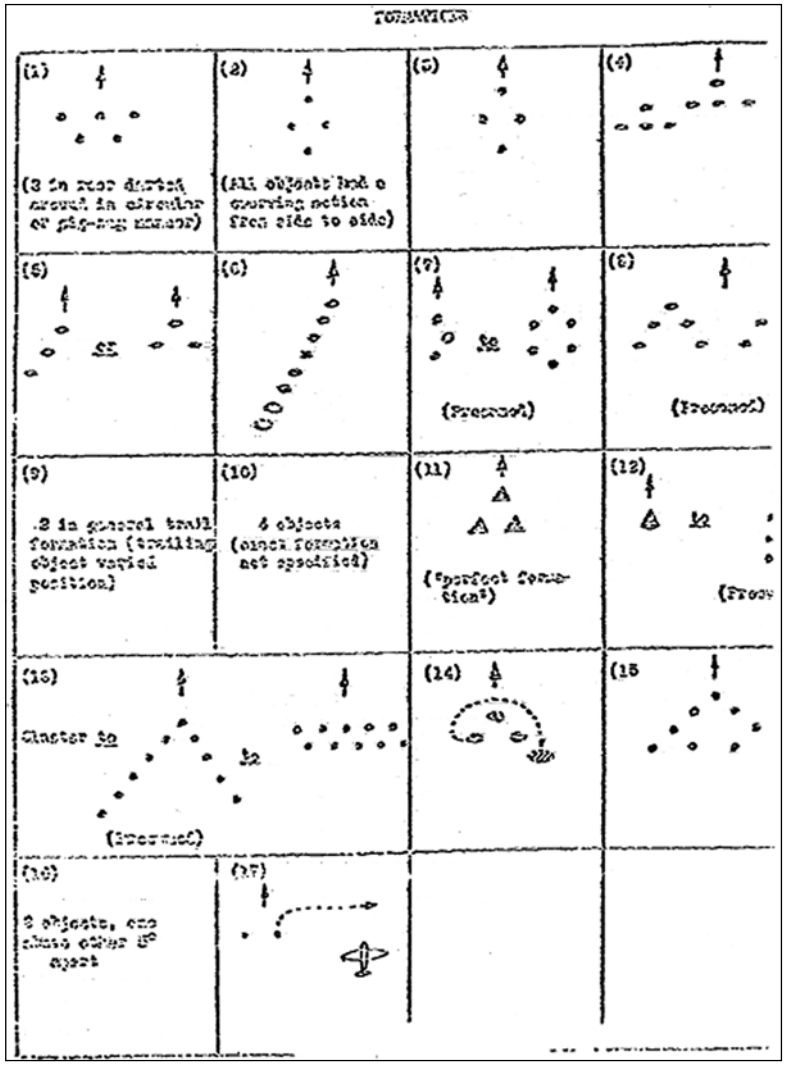
Fournet revealed

We are still largely in the dark about the Estimate, but a significant chunk of the Fournet study has surfaced. This happened, surprisingly, through the auspices of the CIA.

The CIA has released a small but interesting pile of documents that are mainly concerned with the aftereffects of the 1952 Washington, D.C., sightings, specifically the CIA's scrambling to try to understand UFOs and the run-up to the Robertson Panel. In those documents we read many things. One topic concerned the great interest that a group of scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (primarily the core people who would establish MIT's Lincoln Laboratory) were showing in UFOs, and the possibility that they would launch a full-scale study in concert with the CIA's Office of Scientific Intelligence. OSI Director H. Marshall Chadwell was handling all these correspondences, meetings, and (with CIA rocket scientist Fred Durant) arrangements for the panel. His correspondence with the Lincoln group was with MIT physicist Julius A. Stratton, a science superheavyweight. Chadwell had almost promised that some such cooperation would be likely once the panel meeting was out of the way.

H. Marshall Chadwell

Of course, that didn't happen. It appears that Chadwell had the rug pulled out from under his plans at the eleventh hour. But he had to tell Stratton what happened, and that's where Fournet's study comes in. In Chadwell's January 27, 1953, letter to Stratton, there is a lot of talk about the meeting, and, at the end, with no ceremony, is attached a page that is obviously a handout (above) that Chadwell got at the Panel meeting. It is labeled "UFO Formations," and on the previous page was scrawled, "Basis for Maj. Fournet's presentation to OSI Advisory Grp."



Handout provided by Dewey Fournet to the 1953 Robertson Panel that shows UFO formations.

When UFO researcher Jan Aldrich saw this page, he immediately knew what it was. A few months later, it dawned on me, too. These were diagrams that Dewey would give to Robertson et al. to help them follow along while he explained his study. They probably represent only part of the total study, but this is what we have to work with. CUFOS board member Bill Murphy, with sharper eyes than mine, saw the probable spellings of most of the words on the diagrams. Then it was up to the rest of us to see what we might see.

This is what I saw. You are welcome to tell me that I am wrong. Case #6 was obviously the Nash/Fortenberry sighting over Chesapeake Bay on July 14, 1952 (see *IUR*

27, no. 1, Spring 2002). Case #1 seemed almost as obviously the May 1, 1952, George Air Force Base case near Victorville, California. CUFOS historian Frank John Reid instantly showed me that Case #11 was the July 24, 1952, Carson Sink, Nevada, B-25 case. Looking at those and the grid, I made a hypothesis:

a) these things could be in date order—that's the sort of thing an organized engineer would do; and

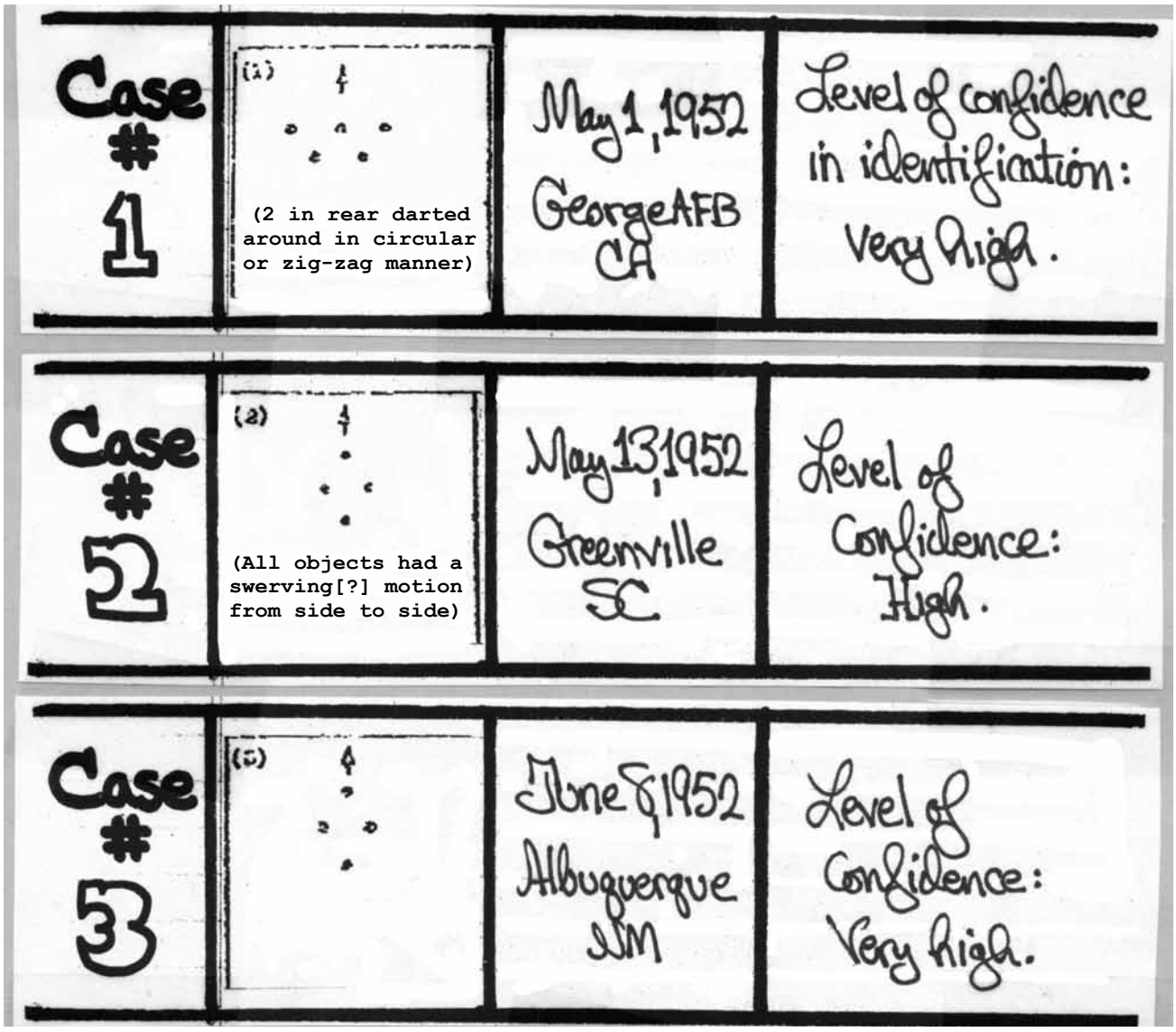
b) these cases might all be within the time period when Fournet had sole responsibility for the Pentagon UFO desk—that is, they were in some sense "his" cases.

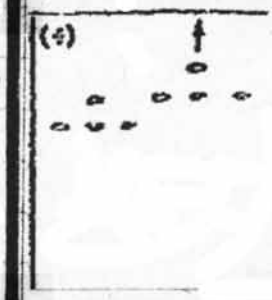
Using those two guesses as guidelines, on these pages I have (partially) reconstructed Fournet's study as he presented it to Robertson.

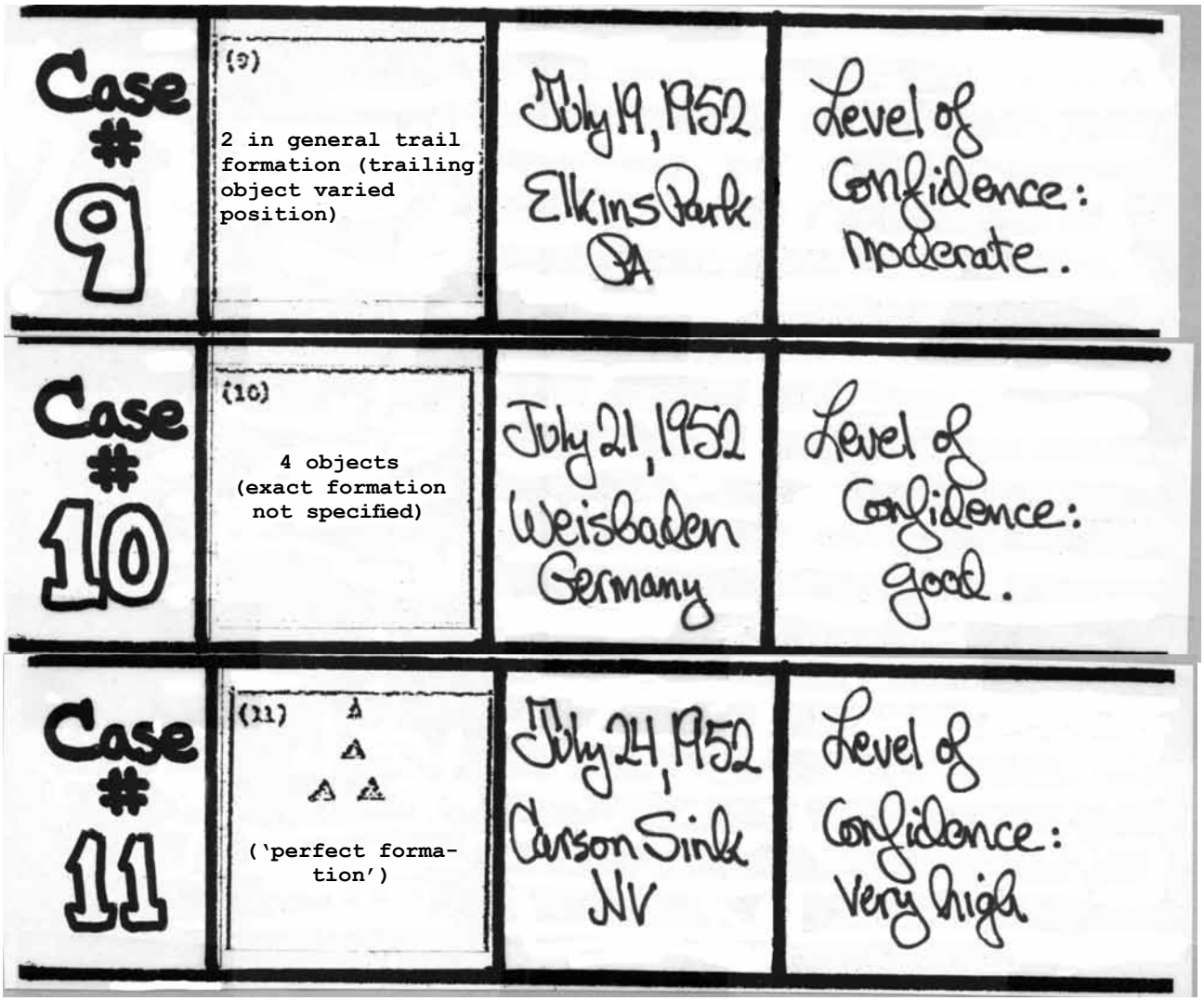
The Fallout from Fournet

What we've been able to do so far has several positive elements for UFO studies. First, it proves irrevocably that Fournet's study was real and that the Air Force continually lied about this. Second, it proves that things of importance are not being released, even when directly asked for through FOIA. Third, it indicates that important cases were never dealt with by Blue Book, even the relatively competent Blue Book headed by Ruppelt. To illustrate this point, take Case #13 from Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 30, 1952. The diagram is relatively elaborate and so perfectly matches the witness description that there is no reasonable doubt about it. But this case does not appear in Blue Book. (I will hold out a small caveat on this, as Blue Book was often sloppy and disorganized and unpredictable as to where a case might be misfiled, but I believe that it is not there. There is a different Albuquerque case in the "right" location, but it is not this one.)

Not in Blue Book, but in Fournet. How does that happen? This event was witnessed by Doyle Kline, a staff writer for Scripps-Howard resident in Albuquerque. He doubtless had plenty of interactions with the local Air Force base (Kirtland) and he knew the base commander, Brig. Gen. William A. Matheny. The witness went directly to Matheny



Case # 4		?	Case not identified.
Case # 5		June 19/23? 1952 McChord AFB WA	Level of confidence in identification: weak.
Case # 6		July 14, 1952 Chesapeake Bay, VA	Level of Confidence: very high.
Case # 7		?	Case not identified.
Case # 8		?	Case not identified.

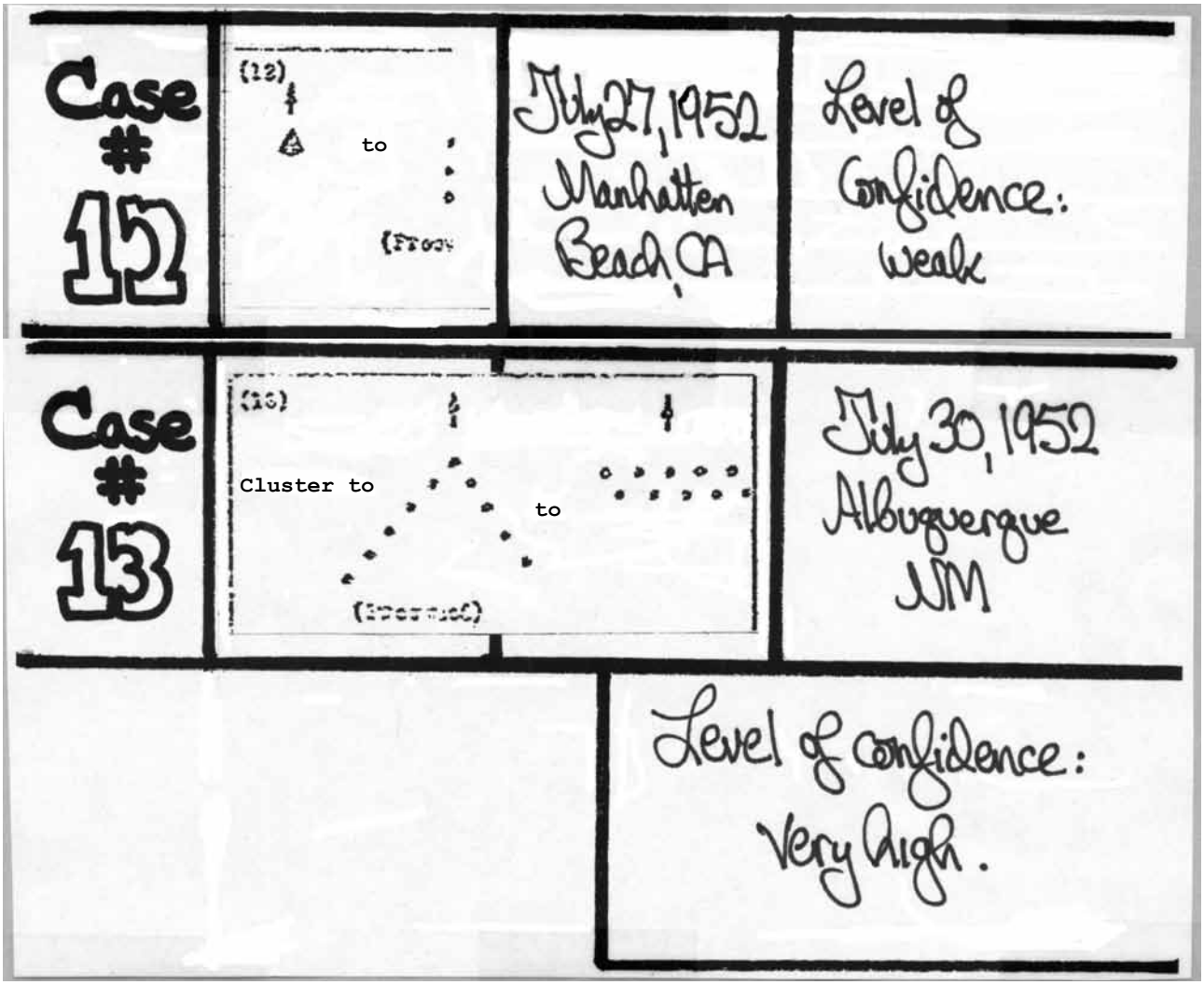


and reported his sighting (we know this because Kline wrote the story up for a Scripps-Howard news dispatch). Matheny wouldn't comment on his opinions of UFOs to Kline, but we know what he believed. This is because Ruppelt knew him, too. Ruppelt categorized Matheny as one of the base commanders most sold on the idea that UFOs were extraterrestrial craft. Matheny suggested to Kline that he meet with base intelligence officers and make out a full report. This he did, and this is the report we cannot find.

There were (most likely) multiple report copies, as was policy at that time. One would likely go to Air Defense command headquarters. One would definitely go to the Directorate of Intelligence and land on Fournet's desk. One would probably be filed at Kirtland (especially with a commander like Matheny), and one may or may not have been sent directly to Blue Book. Why not certainly? Well, there was a lot of confusion at the individual bases as to whether to send copies to Blue Book or not. One policy was to send everything to the Pentagon and they would pass on the information in a timely manner. Whatever happened in this case, Dewey got the report, and it seems Blue Book didn't. A deduction one might make is that this probably happened more than once, and that a pile of untransferred cases exist at both Air Defense Command and the Directorate of Intelligence that we have never seen.

In this instance, more oddity exists since it is almost certainly also true that Ruppelt did see the case when in D.C. and arguing with Fournet about the validity of his study. Our boy Ed mentions several motion-study cases by name here and there in his archival notes. The incompetency of the case transfer may have been due to everyone being too busy and hassled, or to incompetent handling of Blue Book duties when the boss (Ruppelt) had to be so frequently out of town. (I have several hints that the younger personnel backing up Ruppelt didn't take their tasks seriously.)

More important than all this organizational stuff and sociology is what Dewey Fournet was trying to tell us. He saw right through the phenomenon. He was a pilot who watched countless airplanes at work and he knew something very simple: Groups of planes in military formation don't look like anything else. They don't look like balloons, or fireballs, or illusions. They don't even look like geese. The hard geometry of planes in formation is unique, and in some sense, looks unnatural. It is the result of intelligence at work



combined with technology. All you have to know about the nature of UFOs, as a first deduction, is contained in any set of cases involving formations. Once you clearly see that those cases at least are of intelligently controlled technology, then you must ask yourself: Can we fly like that? Fournet's answer was no, we can't. This, in a less formalized way, is still the basis for the pro-ETH argument today. One can escape its logic only by creating (to my mind, preposterous) schemes to deny the details of the reports, or have the unusual mind of Ed Ruppelt, who could see exactly what Fournet saw and still feel that somehow none of that was good enough, because people were flawed as witnesses (even when honest) and he really needed a wreck of one to inspect before he could conclude anything.

Ruppelt again:

> On my next trip to the Pentagon, I spent the whole day talking to Major Dewey Fournet and two of his bosses, Colonel W. A. Adams and Colonel Weldon Smith, about the UFO subject in general. One of the things we talked about was a new concept or approach to the UFO problem—that of trying to prove that the motion of a UFO as it flew through the air was intelligently controlled....
>
> The basic principle of the study would be to see if the motion of the reported UFOs was random or ordered. Random motion is an unordered helter-skelter motion very similar to a swarm of ants or flies mulling around. [Ruppelt then goes on to class bird flights as ordered due to their "intelligence," but he does not quite grasp the subtlety of what Fournet was trying to do.]
>
> By the fall of 1952 we had a considerable number of well documented reports in which the UFOs make a series of maneuvers. If we could prove that these maneuvers were not random, but ordered, it would be proof that the UFOs were something that was intelligently controlled.

Ruppelt understood almost everything driving Fournet, Adams, and Smith (except for the point that the hard geometry of machine-powered flight involves behavior different from bug-hunting swallows). But he also did us a real service. He mentioned a couple of sightings that he said were being used but are not in the study under discussion.

I believe that this last fact is because Fournet knew that flying in formation alone wasn't enough for the ETH. To get all the way there you need another set of cases that demonstrate maneuvering beyond the operational capabilities of

U.S. or Soviet aircraft in 1952. These additional studies could be based on well-documented cases even if those had only a single object with no formation flying. It is my suspicion that Fournet's motion study was of two types: advanced maneuvering and formation flying. When taken together, they made (for him) the ETH hard to deny. Neither of the two cases mentioned in Ruppelt's book, but not in Fournet's study, are formation-flying events, but both would fall into the other half of the study. Fournet would only have handed out a set of diagrams for the formation cases because drawing out all the motions in the maneuvers cases was (should have been, anyway) far more complicated. It is also my belief that the UFO motions in the Tremonton, Utah, film played a big role in his study, but since the Navy analysts were at the panel to talk that through, Fournet didn't have to do so.

Fournet, concerning his study:

> I prepared it primarily as a weapon for use against the apathy and/or bias on the subject which prevailed in certain official quarters.

And:

> It contained largely the same kind of data [that I used

> in] the presentation to the Robertson Panel. What I did was use the same basic sighting reports, intending to show the probability of intelligent control—probability in this case—and admitting to the possibility that when we said that intelligent control is probable [we have to] admit then the further possibility that they could be of extraterrestrial origin.

Well, old UFO warrior, I'm with you on all of that, and tip my hat to you because you saw so clearly, even without the help of the mountain of close-encounter cases that were yet to come.

Fournet case identifications

Case #1, May 1, 1952, George Air Force Base, near Victorville, California. Five Air Force witnesses saw five white discs; objects flew in formation, but the last two would close, then break apart; the group made a right-angle turn.

Case #2, May 13, 1952, Greenville, South Carolina. Four astronomers at Furman University witnessed four red-yellow ovals; objects flew in diamond formation and wobbled; the case was cleared for Donald Keyhoe by Fournet and Al Chop.

Case #3, June 8, 1952, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Two civilian witnesses at the Monte Vista Christian Church saw four shiny ovals; objects flew in diamond formation, straight and level; Fournet and Kirtland Air Force Base Commander Brig. Gen. William A. Matheny seemed to have a close interest in local UFO reports, and this could explain this case's inclusion.

Case #4, not yet identified.

Case #5, June 17, 19, 23, 1952, McChord Air Force Base, near Tacoma, Washington. Multiple Air Force witnesses saw yellow-white objects on three separate nights; variable numbers, objects sometimes in a "V," maneuvered as a group. This case identification is possible but weak.

Case #6, July 14, 1952, Chesapeake Bay, Virginia. A Pan American Airways DC-4 airliner was flying southward along the east coast at 8,000 feet; Capt. William B. Nash and Second Officer William Fortenberry suddenly saw six reddish, glowing ovals in clear formation making a strange, noninertial turning maneuver.

Case #7, not yet identified. However, and intriguingly, this could be the first of the famous Washington, D.C., radar sightings on July 19, 1952; variable numbers of objects were seen, as many as seven at once; Fournet could be including this because of his first-hand knowledge of the radar returns.

Case #8, not yet identified.

Case #9, night of July 19–20, 1952, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. An Air Force pilot watched two starlike objects that circled in formation and made right-angle turns (outstanding description of sighting); shortly afterwards, two other sets of observers, one at Lavallette, New Jersey, and another on a cruiser off the New Jersey coast, reported similar objects.

Case #10, July 21, 1952, Wiesbaden, Germany. Two Air Force officers in different locations saw four yellow-white lights, turning red; the objects flew in a straight line, hovered, then formation broke as two went high, one west, and one east.

Case #11, July 24, 1952, Carson Sink, Nevada. Two Air Force lieutenant colonels in a B-25 saw three silver-white, delta-shaped objects that approached to within 400–800 yards; they banked and turned in formation.

Case #12, July 27, 1952, Manhattan Beach, California. An ex-Navy pilot and seven other witnesses saw one large silver object; it turned and split into several coin-shaped disks that formed a stack in the sky; the assemblage circled and flew off.

Case #13, July 30, 1952, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Scripps-Howard reporter Doyle Kline saw about 10–12 objects; they were white and luminous and flew in a cluster, then shifted to a V formation, and then into two parallel lines, slightly offset from each other; this could be another report from Matheny to Fournet involving civilian observations. [A strong possibility exists that this sighting occurred on July 29, as Kline's report apparently was first published in the *Albuquerque Tribune* on July 30, in which he stated that the event occurred the previous night.—*Ed.*]

Case #14, August 3, 1952, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. A civilian engineer saw three light-green cylinders; the objects hovered in an inverted V formation, then one rolled over to create an echelon formation; they seemed to rotate around an axis as they flew; this is also a case cleared for Keyhoe by Fournet and Chop.

Case #15, August 3, 1952, Hamilton Air Force Base, near Novato, California. Three Air Force officers saw two silver discs, then six more; the objects maneuvered and circled, then when six more arrived, assumed a diamond-like pattern.

Case #16, not yet identified.

Case #17, August 24, 1952, from Hermanas, New Mexico, to El Paso, Texas. An Air National Guard colonel, flying an F-84G from California to Georgia, saw two silver balls; the objects flew in formation, but one seemed to change shape to oval or longer when it made a right-hand turn; both turned to gray in color; after disappearing, they rejoined the plane over El Paso; one object went high and the other flew to join in close formation; then they flew off; this is another case cleared for Keyhoe. ✦

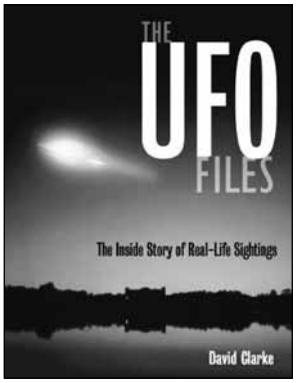
MORE MoD UFO FILES RELEASED

A fifth batch of UFO reports was released in February 2010 by the British Ministry of Defence as part of an ongoing program launched in 2007 to make the entire UFO archive public. The newly released 6,000 pages of documentation cover the period 1994 to 2000. One of the more interesting cases is an incident that occurred on January 6, 1995, when a Boeing 737 approaching Manchester Airport nearly collided with a delta-shaped UFO. The pilot and first officer both witnessed this and made an official report. Neither the MoD nor the Civil Aviation Authority could find any explanation.—*The Guardian, February 18.*

Book reviews

The UFO Files: The Inside Story of Real-Life Sightings, by David Clarke. Kew, Richmond upon Thames, London: National Archives, 2009. ISBN 978-1-905615-50-6. 160p.

Factual, readable, and interesting, this book is an excellent popular primer to the British UFO experience. David Clarke has a Ph.D. in folklore and is senior lecturer in journalism at Sheffield Hallam University, where he teaches media law and investigation skills. He also consults on media projects on unexplained phenomena. Readers will remember Clarke for his article on the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) study Project Condign in *IUR* 30, no. 4 (August 2006). Among Clarke's 10 books are several upon the UFO subject, including *Phantoms of the Sky: UFOs—A Modern Myth?* (1990), and *Out of the Shadows: UFOs, the Establishment, and the Official Cover-Up* (2002), both co-written with Andy Roberts. Roberts and Clarke also collaborate on a skeptical monthly "Flying Saucery" column in *Fortean Times.*



Clarke's *UFO Files* is two things in one brief book: an entertaining history of British UFO reports, written basically from the primary sources, and the story of the response of the British government and media to those reports. Published by the U.K. National Archives, the tome takes advantage of that agency's unburdening of many of its UFO-related files, most recently in February 2010.

The UFO Files is also a book-length introduction and promo for the MoD UFO files, which may be downloaded for a price from the National Archives website at ufos.nationalarchives.gov.uk. The site also helpfully provides a way to order the book. A subsidiary theme to the work is the overall policy of information management by the British government and the Royal Air Force, as well as their relationships with the U.S. government, the U.S. Air Force, and the CIA. For a fuller account of British governmental involvement in the UFO mystery, consult Clarke's earlier *Out of the Shadows,* although in the intervening time he has added to his understanding of the subject.

Clarke is the right person to have written this book, for during his ufological career he has been instrumental in uncovering and getting published formerly hidden British governmental files on the subject. His source material is not limited to the archival records themselves, but is enriched by correspondence and conversation with many of the principals (such as air crews and other witnesses) involved in the UFO cases and those involved in their study, as well as governmental debates and actions regarding the UFO question. He also draws upon newspaper and television resources.

Clarke is the official consultant to the National Archives for the ongoing release of the MoD files. He hews to the theme that UFOs are often interesting, even sometimes mysterious, but not a matter with heavy defense implications—which is in line with the official British government stance.

The book adopts a roughly chronological format, beginning with anomalous sightings before "The Flying Saucer Age," and moving through "Cold War UFOs" to "Turn of the Century UFOs," including the Alderney (Channel Islands) sightings of April 23, 2007. As the focus is on Great Britain, American readers will find reports that are new to them, as well as additional details about more familiar cases. The spectrum of British cases is similar to the United States: There are balls of light, dark helicopters, hair-raising close encounters, radar "angels," likely spy planes, cigars, discs, triangles, flying crosses, and dancing lights, including lights from a Tina Turner concert. Two-thirds of the way through the book, Clarke deviates from his basically year-by-year progression to deal with crop circles and alien abductions, phenomena that have been tied together with UFOs in the eyes of the public and indeed in the eyes of many ufologists.

Clarke also details British governmental and military reactions to UFOs, from the Flying Saucer Working Party of the very early 1950s through Project Condign (1996–2000), and media treatment going back to the "scareship" episodes of the early 20th century. Clarke tells us that the British government's response to UFOs was always purely pragmatic, motivated by fears over whether these phenomena could be German, then Russian. Reactive fits occurred, as periodic UFO flaps or threats of potential public inquiries led to ad hoc investigations or galvanized measures to manage the appearance of official disinterest. The MoD often took its cues from USAF and CIA interest shifts towards UFOs. But the government maintained publicly that UFOs had "no defence significance."

Some will question the advisability of such a response to situations in which extraordinary technology seems clearly demonstrated. Indeed, Project Condign resulted from an ongoing internal debate over the fact that the government could show no real investigation of the UFO subject to back its claims. Condign made it clear that UFOs exist and are reported to have capabilities well beyond those of any known aircraft or missile. So how could UFOs not be interesting to the British government and Royal Air Force? The key is whether UFOs, whatever they are, pose a threat to the British Isles or interests. The MoD's task is not to explore novel technology; it is rather to defend against such technology if

the situation should arise. As far as the evidence indicated, UFOs did not shoot back and did not rise to the level of a military threat to Britannia as a whole. A 1996 MoD letter stated to an abductee that "Abduction is a criminal offence and as such is a matter for the civil police. As the MoD is not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of extraterrestrial activity, the matter of abduction by alien lifeforms is a non-issue as far as [we] are concerned."

The Crown's overall attention to UFOs is limited to national defense interests; that UFOs were felt not to pose much threat or value to them finds support in the December 2009 closure of the MoD's public-affairs UFO desk, which effectively cut off the direct reception of UFO reports from the public.

Regarding claims of a government cover-up, Clarke notes how general official policy, including a passion for secrecy on many subjects during the Cold War, contributed to the beliefs by UFO enthusiasts that a special cover-up was occurring with respect to their particular passion.

In some instances there was an obvious reason for being tight-lipped. In early November 1953, a U.S. Skyhook balloon launched from New Mexico overshot its intended ocean landing area and, while cruising at high altitude over Kent, was spotted by an RAF crew; this prompted "flying saucer" questions in Parliament that could not be answered because the project was Top Secret at the time. Clarke mentions the amusing situation where the UFO desk feared that Army Air Corps helicopter crews ogling crop circles for their own enjoyment could create a public impression that an active investigation was taking place.

Also instructive—and resonant with American ufologists—is a *Daily Press* science writer's comment that "the MoD's attempts to explain away Angus Brooks's [October 26, 1967] experience were doomed to failure because 'the explanations themselves are as far-fetched as, if not more so than, the actual sightings.'" Clarke finds no evidence for a sinister, deep cover-up of ET knowledge; indeed, his earlier *Out of the Shadows* was less sensational on the matter of government cover-ups than its dust jacket seemed to promise.

Ever the social historian, Clarke is quick to point out cases that set the pattern for later variations upon the same UFO theme. For instance, he opines that the Betty and Barney Hill "story, with its key motifs of 'missing time' and medical examination, went on to become the template for all future alien abduction stories," and says that Whitley Strieber's *Communion* book's "striking cover image of an alien face ensured that everyone in the western world was aware what these mysterious creatures looked like."

Many will object that these statements are somewhat oversimplified and gloss over important differences, as does Clarke's view that the contactee movement morphed into grey aliens. Indeed, Clarke is clearly wrong to say that the account in the 1980 book *The Roswell Incident* "gave birth to one of the most enduring conspiracy theories of modern times, the UFO cover-up." Donald Keyhoe was talking about a cover-up in the early 1950s, and my review of then-House Minority Leader Gerald Ford's correspondence between 1966 and 1969 shows that his constituents had by that time well internalized that message.

As a media expert, Clarke adheres to the notion that one or two initial dramatic sightings routinely spawn UFO flaps, although in one case he does allow that some of the new reports are of old sightings by witnesses who were unwilling to come forward previously. He also observes that the 1978 release of the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* had a dramatic effect on UFO reports in Britain. Other ufologists challenge the notion that such external influences are the sole instigators of such flaps. When he mentions the Condon Report's conclusions, Clarke fails to note the inherent problems in the Colorado Project and how the report's conclusions did not match the bulk of its data.

Clarke emphasizes believable natural or human-activity explanations, where they were suggested, for the cases he recounts, and in some instances seems to accept mundane resolutions against the weight of unexplained facts that might at least keep a story in doubt. In *UFO Files,* Clarke labels as "far-out speculation" Michael Persinger's theory that atmospheric plasmas may cause responses in the brain's temporal lobe, creating experiences of missing time and elaborate hallucinations that might be interpreted as supernatural experiences or contact with alien beings. Yet he was not so certain this explanation was that far out in *Phantoms of the Sky.*

Clearly, Clarke does see UFOs-as-alien-spaceships to be a natural human response to some unusual stimuli. He mentions with favor Hilary Evans's remark that "looking back to that day . . . when flying saucers arrived, we can see that they were unquestionably an idea whose time had come." His conclusion that no evidence exists of actual ET visitation might not satisfy readers who have read his accounts of the Topcliffe incident or an apparent radar-visual sighting of October 21, 1952. Clarke himself admits, "It is true that in some cases, such as those UFOs reported by test pilots over Farnborough in 1959 (Chapter 2) or the phenomena seen by radars at RAF Lakenheath-Bentwaters in 1956 (Chapter 3), rational explanations are hard to come by." Some of these cases seem to demonstrate technology beyond then-current human capabilities.

I found the Afterword both insubstantial and too cavalier about the possible ramifications of UFOs. This treatment is highlighted by the book's only depiction of an ET from a report, which shows a sketch of a rather saucy-looking human female (identified by the sketch artist as "Me") standing near a somewhat smart-looking, short alien. There are also the standard, if sketchy, mentions of vast distances, the spectrum of natural and human causes for UFO reports, plus a final quote about the importance of mystery. Since these speculations are not in fact the core of Clarke's main story (this last section is, after all, an Afterword), this perceived weak ending is not in my opinion a major detraction, although it may irk some.

It would be distressing if some of the UFO enthusiasts

Clarke speaks of would see his organization and presentation of data and quotes, plus his philosophical tone, as self-serving regarding the British government. It is true that his overall handling of the UFO subject is friendlier to the MoD than most ufologists may agree with, and he contributes a large part to the National Archives UFO webpage. Clarke proceeds from basic assumptions about evidence and reality that are consistently reflected in his writings. He identifies situations throughout this book where a poor investigation or data exist, no matter the source. Overall, David Clarke is an example of that too rare phenomenon, a skeptical researcher who writes both readably and knowledgeably.

Written for the British reader, *The UFO Files* assumes some familiarity with English geography. American readers will be enchanted with such place names as the Moigne Downs in Dorset, Middle Wallop in Hampshire, and my personal favorite, the Devil's Punch Bowl at Cheesefoot Head, but may generally lack the knowledge to locate these sites mentally without recourse to a map of Great Britain. This should pose no problem for Clarke's British audience.

There are numerous black-and-white illustrations; many of these are referenced to Archives numbers, as is true throughout the text. The footnotes are welcome. Brief excerpts in the margins highlight some of the more dramatic stories in the text and the more salient points of the government's reaction. The stories themselves are well told. Resources include helpful online locations for downloading official documents of the British, American, French, and other governments.

Some might wish for a more exhaustive treatment of the cases or for more of them, but perhaps the length of the book was dictated by considerations of merchandising to a popular audience. As it is, *The UFO Files* is a compact, well-organized overview. I believe it furnishes an excellent basis for those who wish to engage in further study, and will satisfy the more informally curious who pick it up.

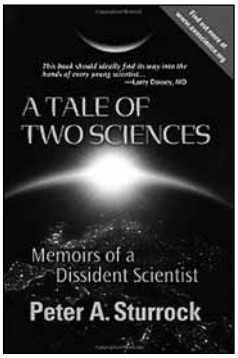
For more information on this author and his work, check out David Clarke's website at drdavidclarke.co.uk and his blog at drdavidclarke.blogspot.com.—*Bill Murphy.*

A Tale of Two Sciences: Memoirs of a Dissident Scientist, by Peter Sturrock. Palo Alto, Calif.: Exoscience, 2009. ISBN 978-0-9842614-0-6. 240p.

A personal work by well-known Stanford physicist and astrophysicist Peter Sturrock, *A Tale of Two Sciences* reflects on the sometimes complementary, sometimes discordant threads of his professional lives: one as a conventional scientist with a long list of respected publications, and the other as an unconventional scientist who explored anomalous phenomena, in particular UFO phenomena.

His conventional scientific career might be a surprise to those who know him only in relationship to UFO studies; it is recounted here in terms that any educated layman can understand—in fact, the simplicity and clarity of his explanations of, say, plasma physics or pulsars, are a testimony to his deep knowledge—one can't explain complex phenomena so clearly otherwise. And for readers who want to go a little deeper, there is a small bit of helpful math in appendices.

His unconventional career, on the other hand, has resulted in the full spectrum of responses that unfortunately are familiar to all researchers in anomalies—embarrassed smiles, curt dismissals, ridicule, the bemused shaking of a lot of heads—all of which tell the researcher that he or she is at best tolerated as an eccentric and at worst dismissed as a nut case.



The two strands of his unconventional career consist of accumulated evidence, the content of his explorations, food for further thought and research, and his personal account of reactions to that work and in turn his reactions to those reactions over a lifetime.

This is a memoir, not a scientific treatise, so it must be evaluated for what it tells us about the man and his internal journey as well as the rewards of a long career in orthodox scientific research. It is well-written, careful in its pronouncements, understated, eminently sane, and occasionally mind-boggling, especially for the uninitiated who previously accepted the dismissal of anomalies like UFOs and ESP uncritically. The book is a significant contribution to the psychology of science and scientists as well and can serve as the wise words of a mentor for younger scientists tempted by the forbidden. Sturrock warns those who would follow in his footsteps to count the cost. Enduring decades of abrasive dismissals by scientists who at their personal worst are unscientific makes this path a long-distance run, not a sprint, which requires stamina, grit, and renewable commitment.

A lifetime of cognitive dissonance is one result of the subject matter Sturrock investigates and frequent rejection of the pursuit itself. At the core his commitment is the essence of a properly scientific attitude—curiosity about the ineluctably real that imprints itself indelibly on one's consciousness. Reading this narrative, one thinks of Francis Bacon's response when criticized by the Church for dissecting cadavers to learn about human anatomy because the Church was afraid that his discoveries might contradict its teachings: "Whatever deserves to exist deserves to be known."

Sturrock is well-known in UFO circles as the organizer of the September 1997 conference that brought together an eclectic group of scientists at the Pocantico Conference Center near Tarrytown, New York, to hear presentations on selected cases and some summaries of UFO effects by serious researchers (see *IUR* 23 no.3, Fall 1998). Financed by Laurance Rockefeller, the conference straddled the forbidden and the familiar and included researchers known to readers of this journal, such as Jacques Vallee, Mark Rodeghier, and Richard Haines. The medium, a respectable scientific conference, was intended to be the message as well, leading to greater credibility for UFO research. The conference

concluded with carefully phrased, conservative, thoughtful suggestions that challenged orthodox scientists by proposing additional topics and structures for research.

A compelling drive to clarify the data, integrate it into a unified framework, and articulate tentative but provocative conclusions about what it tells us to explore next—that is a subtext of this work. It's motivated in part by the desire to alleviate the cognitive dissonance that must be addressed by a mature, healthy ego. By establishing basic criteria—does it exist? therefore is it deserving of being understood?—for work in all arenas, Sturrock challenges again and again the irrational rejection of the subject matter by those who claim the scientific method as their modus operandi. He places the burden on scientists who refuse even to look, much less pay attention. And that challenge will be handled by most career scientists as they have handled both Sturrock and the subject matter in the past, by not acknowledging that it exists.

Because Sturrock is willing in this personal account to reveal more of the feelings behind his thinking, he is impelled to conclusions that have not been often articulated in the past. At the end of the work, he advances an alternative view of physics that might account for UFO high strangeness. His conclusions suggest in essence that current models of reality derived from physics do not explain what has been observed. Therefore, oblique trajectories must be followed to explore possibilities that begin to account for them—and perhaps reap practical rewards for spacetime travel, energy consumption, and medicine.

And because the narrative is a justification of a lifetime of unorthodox pursuits, the author marshals a sequence of historical theories that were rejected out of hand when first proposed but that turned out to be of merit. Heterodox ideas gained a foothold among mainstream scientists "one funeral at a time," as Max Planck described progress in science. Sturrock refers to the famous instance of meteorites that could not possibly exist because "rocks do not fall from the sky"; battered-child syndrome, the details of which could not be heard when first presented to doctors; the theory of plate tectonics; and, in his primary domain of expertise, theories about neutrinos and pulsars. One thinks too of Raymond Dart and his work on *Australopithecus,* widely rejected for many years.

On one level, the text reminds both scientists and laity that good science ought to consider anomalies worthy of investigation, and on a personal or psychological level, the author must make the case that in all of the work he has done, he listens carefully, observes scrupulously, and rigorously investigates before formulating a hypothesis.

Part of making his case is the entire first part of the memoir, which reviews Sturrock's educational and vocational history, linked by memories of influential teachers, mentors, and colleagues. That organizing principle is an attribute of memoirs too, the narrative sequence determined by memories of people important to the author's personal and professional life. Those chapters establish that Sturrock was indeed mentored and respected by conventional scientists of some renown, that some of the best people in his field led him into research in Europe and the United States in astrophysics and physics that resulted in numerous papers and a long distinguished career at Stanford University, one of the most respected academic institutions in the world.

Then, having hung that framework like a curtain, Sturrock discusses his other career as a dissident scientist. A man, in other words, who was curious and found the universe, as Alice said, even "curiouser and curiouser."

It sounds simple, doesn't it? That the scientific mind is curious? Yet again and again, Sturrock was frustrated by the absence of this core attribute, arguably the cornerstone of intelligence, the willingness to poke one's whiskers out beyond the door of one's snug abode and sniff the air; that frustration comes to the surface in anecdote after anecdote. So many colleagues were tamed and constrained by a culture of caution and hesitancy, a fear of being branded a heretic, a terror, after all, of losing one's benefits.

In addition to UFO phenomena, Sturrock discusses possible instances of the paranormal, spontaneous healing, and reincarnation. But UFO phenomena are in the foreground of his research. He has generally avoided mention of personal reactions to his work, such as the near-terror of SETI researchers who thought he was attending a conference on extraterrestrial life and might advance the UFO point of view to their embarrassment. (My experience interviewing Frank Drake and Jill Tarter echoed Sturrock's. The economic and political requirements of SETI, fighting for several hundred million dollars in endowment funds against a strong political headwind, necessitated, Tarter told me, a strict divorce of their project from "bad science," defined as anything that might taint their efforts. She used her own mistaken identification of the moon as a UFO during an airplane ride as an example of why all UFO reports must be something similar. When I observed that this was not scientific, she did not respond. I recall feeling—as Sturrock often did—taken aback by the lack of a scientific attitude on the part of a well-known scientist.)

In all of his multiple pursuits, it is possible that Sturrock's English upbringing influenced some of his attitudes and interests. Based on my experiences while living in England as a young man, I offer these speculations.

First, I learned in England that loud expressions of enthusiasm are often frowned on. I recall that when *Sesame Street* was introduced to English TV audiences, a friend said a much better program was the one in which children sat quietly on the floor while a teacher read a story. When an Englishman felt strongly about something, he was more inclined to say "um" quietly instead of "oh boy gee whiz wow!"

This underscores the habitual understatement that for an Englishman born and bred reveals rather than contradicts intensity of feeling. If an exuberant American extrovert like me were to write this account, it might say: "Please, people! This is *data*! This is observable, frequently reported data! And it challenges the way we believe the universe works! Let's *think* about it, shall we?"

Here's a second hunch about "things English": In addition to the advances that created modern scientific thinking beginning with the Royal Society, England has accepted the eccentric and the anomalous, and struggled to reconcile the known and the unknown into one big picture. The work of the Society for Psychical Research at the turn of the 20th century included psychologists like Frederic W. H. Myers, philosophers like William James, politicians like Arthur Balfour, physicists like Oliver Lodge, and serious, thoughtful investigation of mediums, spirits, crisis apparitions, and the survival of bodily death. My hunch is simply that Sturrock is part of that tradition too. He knew that wise, distinguished men did not reject a subject a priori but peered into the shadows on the edges of experience. That is part of the heritage of a man who suggests that when we turn around and look at the world, we transit a full 360 degrees before coming home again, knowing that when we do, the self with which we arrive will not be the self that departed on that journey.

A few years ago, I reviewed Jonathan D. Moreno's *Mind Wars,* an investigation by a bioethicist on the military and intelligence applications of neuroscience. Like Sturrock, Moreno advanced conventional credentials again and again, recounting his work with intelligence agencies so he could insist to a skeptical audience that he was not a conspiracy theorist or a nut case but a legitimate, credentialed academic.

Moreno told me that scientists often clammed up when he asked about their research. Sturrock does not dwell on that aspect of his research, but it is there nevertheless. Not only do sociological and cultural molds for conformity shape the clay of scientific research, but precisely because the data are compelling, precisely because it would have attracted attention, and research, and dollars in the past, whatever might have been discussed behind closed doors is beyond our reach. It is not only the universe that plays dice with us but, closer to home, it is likely that some in positions of authority do too. No wonder we often feel that we are looking into a fun-house mirror when we try to connect the dots. The elusiveness of anomalies is distorted by the fact that we don't and can't know what we don't know . . . about who does know more about them.

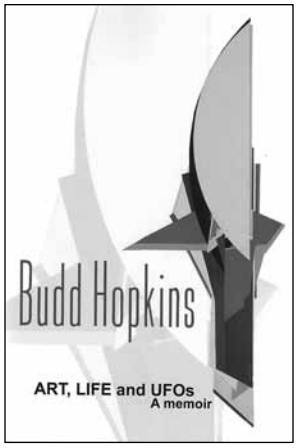
It is characteristic of an anomaly that it does not connect with other known facts. It hangs in the air like the grin of a Cheshire cat, tantalizing and out of reach. That characteristic also afflicts research into anomalies. The Pocantico Conference, for example, resulted in distinguished scientists contradicting the Condon Report, making recommendations, and then . . . nothing. Sturrock also cites GEPAN/SEPRA as a good model for investigating UFO events, so one might expect the work done by the French to be on our radar. But that remains anomalous too. Sturrock helped to found the Society for Scientific Exploration and its *Journal of Scientific Exploration,* which have also resulted in important work, but the society and the journal remain in limbo, a bit off the beaten path, interesting to some, but anomalous. For the moment, those efforts are here and not here at the same time, lacking integration into mainstream thought. They accumulate but remain liminal to the primary concerns of establishment scientists, mainstream media, and 21st-century consensus reality.

The promise of this thoughtful, so-interesting memoir is that one more drip in a sequence of drips on the rocks of reality will help to wear away the resistant rock. The fear is that this work too will be dismissed as a quirky look into weird New Age experiences, an off-road trip irrelevant to the highways of career science. The countercultural view? If it exists, it is worthy of being understood.

And so is Peter Sturrock.—*Richard Thieme.*

Art, Life, and UFOs, by Budd Hopkins. San Antonio, Tex.: Anomalist Books, 2009. ISBN 978-1-933665-41-2. 438p.

Very early on in reading this book, I stumbled across a sentence* that got me thinking about other aspects of the UFO field. I sent a note to Budd Hopkins, telling him that I was reviewing his book and that I planned on looking mostly at the UFO aspect of it. Budd wrote back saying that the book was not just another of his UFO books, but more of a memoir that covered his life's work. The UFOs were important, but so was the art and so was his life story.



I had thought that his book would be segmented into his early life, his art, and his UFO research, but it wasn't. I think of my life with my military career separated from my writing career and my UFO research, but Budd has integrated all parts of his life so that his art is influenced by his UFO research and his UFO research is influenced by his art, as he hints throughout this book.

On page 306, for example, Budd wrote, "I was keenly aware that few people in the UFO research community had any knowledge of abstract art, mine included, and very few artists cared a fig for the idea of UFOs. I was pained by the disconnect between two groups with which I was so deeply involved."

Just two pages later, he expresses surprise that science fiction writers have little regard for UFOs. He was writing about two specific examples, Kurt Vonnegut and Ray Bradbury. Vonnegut "coldly dismissed it [UFOs] as ridiculous. Bradbury, it seems, knew little about UFOs, the evidence for them, and probably cared even less."

Those of us who have written science fiction and who have moved through the science fiction community know that it is the writers who most often express disdain for the

*For those who are interested, the sentence that sparked the email was a note that Charles Hickson had been awarded two Purple Hearts for service in Korea and I wanted to know where that information originated.

idea of alien visitation, but the fans of science fiction seem to love it. They have a captivation with UFOs that is curiously lacking in the writers of it.

But this book has nothing to do with science fiction and it is certainly more than just a UFO book. It's about his life and I confess that I was fascinated by the short look into the history of World War II seen through the eyes of a boy too young to join the military and whose father was a soldier. Hopkins takes pride in his father's position and high rank, but clearly did not follow in his footsteps as a military officer or in his political philosophy.

In fact, in exposing his liberal leanings (can one really believe that an artist living in New York would be anything else?), he laments using student deferments to avoid the draft in the 1950s as the Korean War wound down, as did George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, and Donald Rumsfeld in the1960s during the height of the Vietnam War. He didn't mention Bill Clinton's attempts to avoid the draft as well. I suppose it should be noted that taking advantage of an opportunity is not necessarily a bad thing, especially when you consider that a draftee has his life turned upside down for two years.

At one point Budd tells us of watching a military aircraft that is going down and he could clearly see one of the men in it, just before it crashed. This must have had a major effect on him, but he writes relatively little about it.

Budd moves on to high school and then college, where we learn more about his sex life than I care to know. But this is his memoir and he's telling us what is important to him.

But he also talks about the fights with his father over his choice of career and the college he would attend. This seems to be a fairly normal exchange driven by a father who would like to see his son succeed and a belief that art might not be the best or the most lucrative career path. Here Budd proves that some who have visions of art actually succeed with it as an occupation.

In fact, he is successful enough to have a home away from Manhattan. I mention this only because it provides the backdrop for Hopkins's UFO sighting.

Budd's UFO interest does not appear until deep in the book. He finally talks about his UFO experience in 1964, giving us all the details, including that it was a lens-shaped object that was clearly visible. He thought that it was as large as a car but also knew that size of objects in the sky without points of reference are difficult to judge accurately. He wasn't alone during the sighting. There were two others in the car including his wife at the time, Joan, and Ted Rothon, described as "a young English social worker." Budd eventually stopped the car and all three of them got out. They watched as the UFO began to move, into the wind, at the speed of a light plane.

After the sighting, which changed his perception of UFOs, he didn't do much about it. He talked with friends who told of similar experiences in the area. He talked with his father, who took the sighting seriously and wrote to the Air Force, which did not. I also wonder if his listening to the famous Orson Welles 1938 *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast, to which he devoted a short chapter, might also have influenced him.

A decade later, Hopkins learned of another UFO sighting, this one in North Hudson Park, New Jersey. He knew the witness and interviewed him. He then set out to find other witnesses and was successful. All of this might not have been important, but he eventually met Ted Bloecher, a long time UFO investigator who became interested after Hopkins told him about the sighting.

All this is important because Budd would eventually write an article about it for the *Village Voice,* which was later published in *Cosmopolitan.* It asserted that he was interested in UFO sightings and, as so often happens, once people have a point of contact, they will call with their UFO stories.

He does provide abbreviated stories of abduction research and tells anyone interested where to find more about it. This is not a UFO book, so evidence to prove the UFO connection just isn't included in it. Is that a flaw here? Not at all. It provides an interesting background for his UFO research and insight into his thought processes, but in the end this is a book about Budd Hopkins and not about UFOs or art. Besides, he tells us that it was all detailed in one of the other books.

We do get to see some of his beliefs. On page 287, he wrote, "One of my favorite comments of Mark Twain is his statement that 'always telling the truth means never having to remember anything.' For a deliberate liar or an emotionally confused confabulator to avoid mistakes in later testimony, he must first memorize many irksome, even trivial details from what he has claimed so far."

But confabulation is not deliberate lying; it's more of the mind filling in lost details. So, while the point about lying is valid, the detail about confabulation is not. That, I suppose, would be one of those trivial details. A tiny misconception that means little in the greater scheme of things.

One thing surprised me about this book. Budd writes, "But the truly bad news was the fact that my press and TV appearances on the UFO abduction phenomenon were apparently having a negative affect on the way that people—dealers, collectors, and even some fellow painters—viewed my work."

This isn't reflected in my experiences. My association with UFOs has been well known by my military colleagues since I was commissioned, and it never had an adverse effect on me. Although the background investigation for my security clearance contained copies of four UFO articles I had written, including two that were critical of the Air Force investigation, I was not denied the clearance. And when I moved to the National Guard, no one said a critical word, though some asked specific questions that showed their personal interest in the subject.

As I say, I found the book captivating, and while much of the UFO-related material can be found in Budd's other books, the condensed version here made it all easier to understand. It brought a bright light on his introduction and then immersion into UFOs and abductions. He has displayed

(continued on page 24)

TURÍS LANDING—*continued from page 7*

bring to mind a combination of two characters from *Star Wars*: entities the size of the pygmy Jawas, the protuberant goggles of the Sand People (Tusken Raiders), and a blend of both in their clothing. These are creatures that inhabit the fictional planet Tatooine in the film that premiered in 1977, two years before the sighting. Nevertheless, we know that the cinematographic interest of our witness is meager, and it seems unlikely that the film could have been his source of inspiration.

It is true, as bibliographer and friend Carlos González Gutiérrez reminds me, that illustrated magazines at the time carried film reviews with photographs of the characters. Nevertheless, beyond the fact that the resemblance seems to us very limited, we have verified Ibáñez's low level of general knowledge: His only activity was working in the field and he was worn out by the end of the day.

The ground traces have also been suspected because of their placement, their permanence, and the data that were deduced from them. We have addressed these criticisms: The traces were discovered completely by chance, they were not known to the witness, and we could not find farm machinery capable of creating them. Though there is no conclusive proof that they were caused by a UFO landing, their location in space and time allows us to accept that a direct relationship is reasonable.

TURÍS AS A PARADIGM

In our judgment, this event is unique and paradigmatic. It is unique because the physiognomy of the supposed UFO occupants has no analogue in the international UFO literature. This is precisely the problem with UFO close encounter cases: Each event seems singular and different, as if it were the product of a mental construction.

And it is paradigmatic because it represents the essence of the high-strangeness UFO phenomenon: Does the testimony of a witness to an alleged extraordinary experience represent a veridical physical reality or not? All over the world, there are cases whose imagery is incompatible with accepted scientific paradigms, cases that cannot be explained as conventional distortions. Either they are authentic events—and this option carries with it some extraordinary implications—or they are narratives invented by the storyteller. We believe there is no choice. The first option is valid only if we can discard the second option 100%, despite the absence of irrefutable physical evidence and multiple witnesses. Therefore, we must develop tools that help us to determine whether or not witness testimony about an anomalous event is the truth.

FICTION OR REALITY?

After eliminating misidentifications, we must consider conscious confabulation. All the elements of the case conspire against it: the reliable personality of the witness, his unchanged testimony over three decades, high-strangeness characteristics that require sources of inspiration seemingly foreign to him, unanimously favorable social opinion, and the finding of physical traces (though this is purely circumstantial evidence). In this scenario, the witness must have deceived first his family, then the entire village, and finally the media, curiosity seekers, and the investigators for 30 years. But is there any evidence that this is the case? We think not.

If we consider the possibility of an unconscious confabulation, such as a hallucination or temporary mental disturbance, there is in psychiatry no well-known disturbed, dissociative, or hallucinatory state that is transitory, in the absence of clinical history or mental pathology.

For a skeptical ufologist like me, the investigation and reinvestigation of this case was a trial by fire. My considered impression is that the witness sincerely believes in the tangible reality of his experience, and I have not found any reasonable evidence of a lie or episode of fantasy, nor any proof that he embellished his account. Ibáñez consistently relates—with only few variations attributable to the passing of time—what he reported to us and others 30 years before. And he has the explicit support of his family and the majority of his neighbors, despite the nature of this extraordinary event.

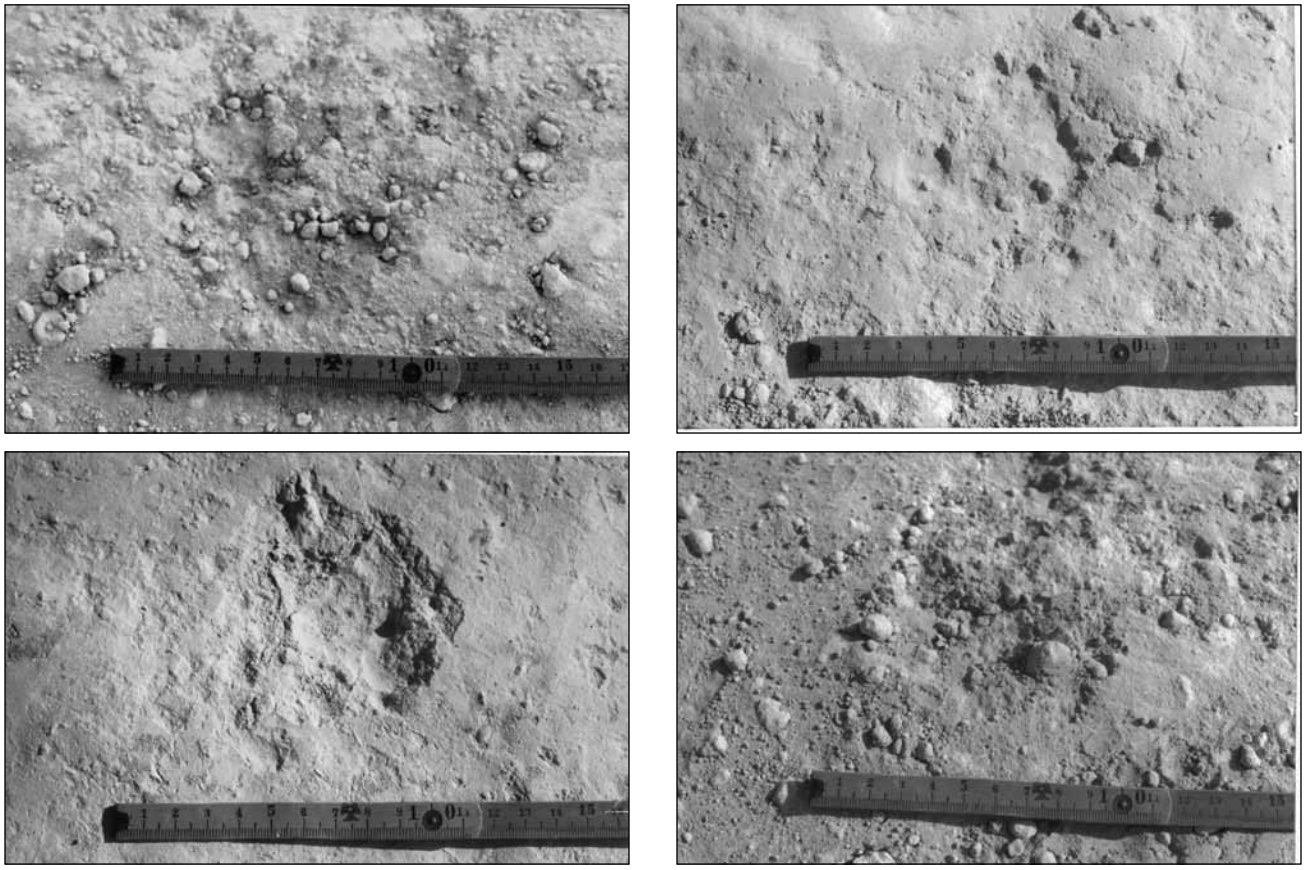
APPENDIX 1: SOIL ANALYSIS

Three weeks after the supposed landing, Juan Antonio Fernández Peris and other members of the AVIU group of Valencia collected soil samples from: (1) the marks made on the ground, (2) inside the rectangle formed by the four marks, (3) the area adjacent to the road, (4) on the road 25 meters (82 feet) away, and (5) next to the carob tree behind which the two beings emerged. Biologist José Luís Caso of Asturias created a report that, as expected, emphasized that the first four samples resembled each other—reddish in color and without vegetation or other organic debris, which corresponds to soil on a local road—while the fifth sample had a darker appearance and numerous fragments of vegetation that showed no burns or other anomalous effects.

Measurements were also taken of radioactivity and heat effects in all the samples. Radioactivity was not detected. The pH (a measure of acidity or alkalinity) and the proportion of carbonates were measured; If the soil had been heated, these should have increased and decreased respectively. Here are the results:

Sample	pH	Carbonates
1	7.7	52%
2	7.8	54%
3	7.8	54%
4	7.9	49%
5	7.6	38%

The differences observed in the pH fall within the limits of chance. As to the differences in the percentages of carbonates, they are not significant in samples 1–4, but they are significant in sample 5, which demonstrates that it



Four landing traces, as they appeared when found in 1979 in the area of the supposed landing, by Juan Antonio Fernández Peris and the other investigators of the AVIU group of Valencia. Photographs by José Vicente Alós, AVIU.

belonged to a different type of soil, richer in organic matter and poorer in carbonates.

Caso concluded that the results do not provide any evidence to support the hypotheses of emitted radioactivity or high temperature.

Appendix 2: A 30-year perspective

Today Federico Ibáñez (known as El Rocío or "Dew," a nickname he got from his great-grandfather) is not who he was when we visited him in 1979. At 84 years of age, his continuing work in the field has made his back visibly arched. Despite that, he continues to help his sons in the tasks of the vineyard and confesses that when he returns from the field he feels better than after spending the day in a rocking chair at home. With respect to his narration of the events, which he had repeated for us for the nth time, when asked "Have you always related it like that?" he quickly replies, somewhat surprised, "I cannot say anything else!" There are details that still amaze him, such as the agility and the short stature of the "dwarves," the overalls or "white raincoat puffed out with air" and the "long blacksmith's goggles" they wore, or the fact that the ground was left clean when the object took off and dispersed all the dust on the road. Ibáñez always offers a succinct, general account of the events, followed by: "What am I going to think it was? A contraption, because of how fast it left," is the only hypothesis he puts forward. He responds carefully and patiently to all questions. And it does not displease him to recall what happened. "Did people think that you were crazy?" we asked him. "No. Most people believed me," he indicates without concern.

We also spoke with Francisco González, "El Regalat," a 70-year-old farmer in Turís, who says of Ibáñez that "he is very rich in land, but very humble and simple . . . someone who can be believed." Baldomero Picó, a neighbor on the same street and a person interested in UFOs ("but without fanaticism") agrees with this favorable assessment. Everything indicates that Ibáñez's local reputation is very good: "He is not one of those who tells fantasies," explains a young farm worker in the area.

I investigated this extraordinary sighting in 1979 and again in 2008 with two follow-up visits. For this reason, Federico's words touched me when we parted, as he said, looking up at the sky: "If we do not see each other again, we will see each other up there."

Appendix 3: Landings in Spain

In the book that I wrote with Juan Antonio Fernández Peris, *Enciclopedia de los encuentros cercanos con OVNIs* (Barcelona: Plaza y Janés, 1987), I examined 585 UFO landing reports in Spain and Portugal in the 20th century, up to the

year 1985. Thirty-two of them took place in 1979 (five in Murcia, three in Madrid, three in Valencia, and the rest in 16 other provinces). Out of the total of 585 cases, I found a conventional explanation for more than half (hoaxes, ball lightning, weather balloons, fireworks, lightning strikes, military exercises, water-tank trucks, etc.), but I could not find an explanation for the others, which presents an enigma worthy of greater study. If 355 were resolved, the other 230 cases retained the label of UFO. Of these, in 125 reports there were physical, physiological, or phytopathological (i.e., dealing with plants) effects, or traces. And in 39 incidents the witnesses reported the presence of humanoid occupants near the landed object. ✦

BOOK REVIEWS—*continued from page 21*

here, simply and compactly, his thoughts and his beliefs.

Those familiar with the UFO community know that Budd and I disagree on some major points, but this was a fascinating look into the man. Make no mistake. This is a book about Budd's political beliefs and his observations on life, his struggle as an artist, his insights into that world, and his eventual understanding of his father's personality. He wrote that his father "preferred us to be obedient rather than independent and to follow his dreams rather than our own," which, I think, was the attitude of many parents of the time.

So, in the end, we have a fascinating book about Budd Hopkins that will interest both students of UFOs and art history. My one complaint is that he skipped over what I think of as his major turning points without providing any real motivation. He might have insisted on a career as an artist to spite his father, but if that was a motive, it was a relatively minor one; his choice seems to have been made for the love of art.

He was drawn to UFOs because of his own sighting, but where most would let it go at that, he searched for more meaningful and deeper answers. He found an interesting specialty in UFO abductions, providing us all with an understanding of how he got there and what he believes.

There is also an undercurrent of his political beliefs throughout the book. He reveals late in the book that he is a liberal Democrat to his father's somewhat conservative Republican beliefs. This seems to be an important point to Budd, but I'm not sure that it is important to the reader. Some might take offense, but the rest of us understand that people have a wide range of beliefs and values and to reject someone because of a political philosophy is to reject so much more without rational reason. Injecting one's beliefs into a work can sometimes alienate the reader.

This, however, is a book that should be read by those interested in UFOs, in art, and in the human condition. It also provides, though I don't think it was intentional, a history of the evolution of American society from the end of the depression to the point we have reached today. His review of his life seems to suggest that we are improving, and though there are bumps in the road, we'll eventually get there. This, if for no other reason, is a good excuse to read the book.—*Kevin D. Randle.* ✦

LETTERS

RICHARD HALL

To the editor:

I was so pleased and gratified to read two separate testimonials to the late Richard "Dick" Hall in the last edition of *IUR*. Every UFO-related publication should have done so! Aside from the fact that Dick (along with his old friend Donald Keyhoe) were the true Fathers of Ufology, his emphasis on maintaining a scientific perspective to UFO study has become increasingly rare in today's atmosphere of New Age nonsense and *X-Files* wannabe conspiracy theorists. Few serious UFO researchers (Rob Swiatek comes to mind as one) understand the importance and necessity of honoring Dick's scientific approach to this most complex and controversial topic. I am honored to have known Dick, and can only hope that those of us involved in serious UFO study will adhere to the same standards of empirical integrity that permeated Dick's long and fruitful life.

S. Peter Resta
Arnold, Massachusetts

My association with Dick Hall goes back to the 1950s. Our first correspondence occurred in August 1957 when I was in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with the IGY Satellite Tracking Program, and he was a Tulane student writing a UFO periodical Satellite. After Dick came to Washington to become NICAP's secretary and later assistant director, I took a part of each of my summer vacations to visit him. His Georgetown apartment was within walking distance to the NICAP office where I spent many hours poring over the organization's extensive sighting files. Frequently we left his apartment and drove on trips out of state, for example, to North Carolina to investigate the famed Brown Mountain lights, and another time on a sweep across several states to check in person with the various NICAP subcommittees. Once we headed south to Florida to visit Dick's father and his sister Mary Lou. At a time when we both were married, we all met at Virginia Beach in March 1970 to observe a total solar eclipse, and it was spectacular! In 1998, I stayed at Dick's Brentwood house while I spent two weeks at the National Archives researching a subject unrelated to UFOs.

We managed to stay in touch via email and letter, so I knew about Dick's struggle with cancer. The last note from my old friend came in November 2008. He told me, "I'm doing pretty well with my chemotherapy." His passing eight months later came as a bit of a shock.

Dick Hall's critical thinking and writing talents in ufology will be deeply missed. And I will miss him as a friend.

Walter Webb
Westwood, Massachusetts
✦